AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 27 with the following paragraph. Additions are indicated by underlining as follows:

Expression vector for murine Stat5a (pXM-Stat5a) was kindly provided by Xiuwen Liu and Lothar Hennighausen (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD) (14). A dominant-negative (DN) variant of Stat5 (Stat5aΔ713) was derived by truncation after amino acid residue Ala713 of pXM-Stat5a, using a PCR fragment generated using 5'-TAATACGACTCACTATAGGG-3' (SEQ ID NO. 1) (sense) and 5'-GCTCTAGACTAGGCATCTGTGGATGCATTG-3' (SEQ ID NO. 2) (antisense) primers, followed by *EcoR*I and *Xba*I digestion, and subcloning into the *EcoR*I-*Xba*I-digested pXM-Stat5a. The DNA sequence of the resulting construct pXM-Stat5aΔ713 was verified before use. The ability of our DNStat5 (Stat5aΔ713) expression construct to completely suppress both Stat5a and Stat5b-mediated transcriptional activation has been reported (18). Replication-defective human adenovirus (Ad5) carrying wild-type Stat5 (WTStat5) or DNStat5 was generated using the AdEasy Vector system (Qbiogene, Carlsbad, CA). The open reading frame sequences of DNStat5 and WTStat5 were released from respective plasmids by 1) digestion with *EcoR*I, 2) blunt-ending by *Klenow* DNA polymerase, and 3) digestion with *Hind*III, and the resulting fragments were subcloned into the *Klenow* DNA polymerase blunt-ended *Bgl*II site and the unmodified *Hind*III site of the pShuttle-CMV transfer vector. Homologous recombination of WTStat5 or DNStat5 transfer vectors with the pAdEasy vector was performed in BJ5183 *E. coli* by electroporation. Recombined clones were screened by Kanamycin-resistant growth, and confirmed by *Pac*I digestion to yield two bands of 30 kb and 4.5 kb. The recombinant viruses were packaged in QBI-293A cells and resulting clones were selected from plaques and amplified. Expression of WTStat5 and DNStat5 from adenoviral stocks was verified by Western blotting using an anti-panStat5 antibody (Transduction Laboratories, Lexington, KY). Selected recombinant viral stocks were expanded in large-scale cultures, purified by double cesium

chloride gradient centrifugation, and titered side-by-side by a standard plaque assay method in QBI-293A cells as per the manufacturer's instructions.